



# Take Care & Act

4F.1



DFES  
Department of Fire &  
Emergency Services

Explore

**Take Care & Act**

*Students explore what they can do to keep their homes and themselves safer in a flood emergency.*

Flooding can result in people being stranded for many days until floodwaters subside (go down). Some remote areas can be isolated for months. Homes near waterways or on low-lying land could be flooded, even if they have never seen floodwaters there before. A water catchment is an area where rainfall lands and makes its journey towards rivers, creeks, lakes, dams and wetlands. As rain fills up rivers, creeks, lakes and dams, it also seeps deep into the ground. Even if you have had little or no rainfall, if another area within your water catchment has been affected, it can impact on other areas within the catchment and cause flooding. The Department of Fire & Emergency Services State Emergency Service (SES) is responsible for responding to flood emergencies in Western Australia.

There are steps that individuals and families can do before, during and after a flood that can ensure their own safety and to protect their home from flood damage. Some of these include placing sandbags around homes to minimise flood damage, placing sandbags in toilets and over drains to prevent sewage backflow, placing items in plastic bags or containers up high and away from flood waters, as well as preparing an Emergency Kit for short-term survival. Sometimes people do have to relocate during a flood emergency to a Relocation Centre. This can be made easier by families being prepared by preparing a Relocation Kit in advance so they can leave safely and quickly before it is too late to travel. Driving through flood waters, or crossing rivers or creeks can be very dangerous during flooding. If you can't walk across, don't drive across.

**Objective:** *At the end of the lesson the children will have increased knowledge about what they can do before, during and after a flood to keep themselves and their homes safer.*

## **Preparing for flood – preparing for flood and reducing risk**

- As a class, discuss the possibility of having to stay at home for 3 or 4 days due to a flood emergency (without power or running water). Brainstorm what you would need to survive (e.g. water, food, etc.) and why you would need it? How much would you need? Design a poster to inform community members of the items required in an Emergency Kit for your survival during a flood emergency.
- In groups, explore how families can prepare for flood and create a checklist. (*Take Care & Act 4F.2*)
- Suggested at home activity: Students test their checklists at home. Students draw a mud map of their home/property. Identify any flood hazards and what you would need to do to prepare your home for flood. Students complete some of the preparation activities on their checklist with their families and photograph, draw or write a short description of what they did and report back to class.
- Relocation Kit: Students think about basic needs (water, food, shelter, clothing, etc.) and prepare a classroom Relocation Kit by bringing things from home. Students discuss their own family's needs and debate why two items are essential to their family's relocation kit (e.g. asthma medication). Students photograph or draw and label their kit. Students then compare their Relocation Kit to what DFES suggests in *Flood Smart* and discuss.
- Students invite their local SES unit to your class to discuss their role in a flood emergency, their training, their equipment and areas in the community that are at risk of flooding. Students draft focus questions and provide them to SES prior to the visit. (*Take Care & Act 4F.3*)





How can you PREPARE for flood emergencies? – Make a checklist of the things you can do to prepare your home and your family for a flood emergency. Leave the ‘DONE!’ column blank. You can tick this if you complete this preparation activity with your family.

CHECKLIST: Preparing OUR home for a FLOOD EMERGENCY

WHAT CAN YOU/YOUR FAMILY DO?	COMMENTS	DONE!

Visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) and find the DFES Flood Smart brochure – Compare your checklist with DFES Flood Smart and REFLECT on what you did/didn't include.

I didn't include: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Something else we can do as a family: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





**Plan a visit from the State Emergency Service (SES)** – This is your chance to find out more about the SES. The SES is a volunteer organisation with a huge role to play BEFORE, DURING and AFTER a flood emergency.

What do you want to know about the State Emergency Service (SES)?

***There is water pouring into my house. How do I contact the SES for assistance?***  
*If you need SES assistance, you can call the SES on 132 500.*

...preparing my home?

...how to stay safer?

...equipment used?

...flood risks in our community?

...becoming a volunteer?

**After the visit** – Create a collage of the SES being active in your community.





(Image Courtesy of Emergency Management Queensland)

## Emergency Kits and Relocation Kits

You can find everything you need to know about Emergency Kits and Relocation Kits on the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) website. [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

Before teaching this lesson, make sure you are familiar with the Safety Information for Flood, as well as the *Flood Smart* brochure.

Emergency Kits are not only for Flood Emergencies. The kit is equally important in any natural disaster situation, for example, bushfire, tropical cyclone, severe storm, etc.

A Relocation Kit is particularly important with flood, as it is common for people to have to relocate during a flood emergency.

It is important that students understand that relocation needs to happen early, as roads can become blocked off and impossible, if not extremely dangerous to drive through.

## State Emergency Service (SES) Visit

Your SES unit may or may not be able to visit you, depending on operational requirements and the fact that they are volunteers, many who have fulltime jobs. Please provide them with plenty of notice. If you can, select students to ask specific questions to ensure that everything you want to know about the SES is covered during their visit. Don't forget to ask about specific risks to your community. It might be helpful to send the questions to the SES unit in advance.